Security System Transformation Definitions Roundtable: Results

Background

- U.S. Government Departments and Agencies have constituent pieces of security system transformation, but currently do not share a common understanding of the problem nor have a common operational framework.

- An interagency group convened at USIP on March 23, 2006 to work through a set of draft definitions, thereby setting the stage for development of a common USG strategy in the coming months.

Who participated?

- The workshop participants represented:
  - State Department (S/CRS, INL, PM)
  - Justice Department (ICITAP, OPDAT)
  - Defense Department (OSD, JFCOM)
  - USAID
  - UN Foundation
  - USIP
- Although not comprehensive in representing the plethora of agencies involved in aspects of security system transformation, these offices represent a critical mass.

Security Draft Definition

- **A condition where citizens are free to pursue activities fundamental to survival without fear of undue violence to their person or community, and legitimate institutions can address external or internal threats to functioning political and economic activities.**

Security Environment

- In most countries, the state is not the exclusive provider of security.
  - Informal, illicit, and/or illegitimate power structures can provide public services (e.g., warlords in Afghanistan, tribes in Yemen or Waziristan, criminal gangs in parts of Russia, private security firms in the U.S.).
- It is crucial to understand the roles these providers play to execute an effective security system transformation.
- The "ideal" security system will vary by case; not all security providers need be state-centric or formal.
  - They <u>must</u> be made accountable, however.

Security System Draft Definition

- The security system consists of those institutions and actors whose responsibility is to provide security for the legitimate government authorities and the populace.

- These institutions include the providers of security; the institutions that support them; and oversight and supervisory bodies.

Examples Follow

Security System Actors

- Armed Forces, Police and paramilitary units;

- Intelligence and security services;

- Civil management and oversight bodies (the President/Prime Minister, the legislature and legislative committees, national security advisory bodies, statutory civil society organizations, Ministries of Defense, Interior, Finance and Foreign Affairs);

- Judicial and public security bodies (the judiciary, justice ministries, defense and prosecution services, prisons and corrections services, human rights commissions and customary and traditional justice systems);

- Non-state security providers (private security companies, civil defense forces); and

- Civil society bodies (NGOs, advocacy, media, professional and religious organizations).

Security System Transformation
Draft Definition

- The transformation of security system actors so that they play an effective, legitimate, and democratically accountable role in providing external and internal security for the populace, maintain a monopoly on the legitimate use of force and thereby transform the security environment.

- SSR/SST consists of improving
  - Accountable oversight of the security system and its components;
  - Security system management; and
  - Effective delivery of security services.

Whole of Government Approach
Draft Definition

- A process to ensure comprehensive implementation of strategies using all relevant programs and instruments, working with international and local partners to address a particular problem.

Transitional Security
Draft Definition

- A cross-sectoral collaborative partnership between international and host nation actors to:

    – Provide territorial and public security;

    – Develop a framework for managing public order and administering justice; and

    – Improve capacity, effectiveness and legitimacy of security and justice institutions, with the goal of providing an environment that is stable, run by the rule of law, conducive for daily provision of needs, and respectful of basic rights.

* From S/CRS draft briefing on Transitional Security.

Back Up Slides

Rules of the Road

- "Stay on target" – the issue is vast. Participants should focus on the specific term we are discussing and table other issues for later.
- These are draft definitions. Our final product today will be sent around for interagency consideration and concurrence.
- To be useful, definitions should avoid imprecise language or overly detailed addendums.
  - Our goal should be two-three sentences that a decision-maker or implementer can quickly understand and internalize.
- The definitions in this brief are not intended to be exhaustive; they are a start.